

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. By this communication, claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the underlined subject matter, and claims 3-18 have been amended. Specifically, claim 3 has been placed into independent form, claim 11 has been amended to include subject matter recited in claim 10, and claims 4-10 and 12-18 have been amended to address formal matters. Claims 3-18 remain pending. The specification has also been amended to include element 106 as illustrated in Figure 2.

On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that claim 3 was cited allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgment, and have place claim 3 into independent form. Based on the foregoing amendments and the discussion that follows, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to for having omitted heading. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the specification has been amended to include the suggested section headings. Applicants request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 15 are objected to for allegedly lacking clarity. Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection, however, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 11 and 15 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants request, therefore, that the objection to claims 11 and 15 be withdrawn.

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 12-14, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, these claims 12, 14, 19, and 20 have been amended or canceled without prejudice to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants request that the objection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Beginning on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Florczak et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,842), and claims 1, 2, 4, 8-11, 13, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Liang et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0212882). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been canceled in favor of placing dependent claim 3 into independent form. Because claim 3 is acknowledged as reciting allowable subject matter, the rejection of the aforementioned claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is moot. Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Beginning on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 5-7 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the *Liang et al. publication*, and claims 1, 2, 4, 8-15, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *PCT WO97 /23423* in view of *Suzuki et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,848,882). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been canceled in favor of placing claim 3 into independent form. Because claim 3 is acknowledged as reciting allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that these rejections are moot. Applicants request,

therefore, that the rejections of the aforementioned claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

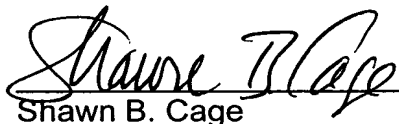
For the foregoing reasons, all rejections and objections raised in the Office Action have been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 3-18 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. In the event, that the Examiner believes that this application can be placed in even better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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